IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the separation of 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene from a starting mixture containing it and isomers thereof comprising the following operations:

(A) crystallization of 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene by the addition of a solvent and cooling of the mixture thus obtained to a temperature higher than the highest formation value of any eutectic of 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene and another isomer in the mixture, whereby a mother liquor containing solid, said solid comprising 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene, is produced;

(B) removal of the mother liquor by repeated washings with a solvent;

(C) dissolution in a solvent of the solid obtained, whereby a solution is produced;

(D) crystallization of said solution by cooling, whereby a suspension is produced;

(E) filtration of said suspension, whereby said 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene is separated, and

wherein the solvent used for ~~one or more~~ each of operations (A), (B) and (C), is independently selected from the group consisting of low molecular weight aliphatic alcohols, glycols, and mixtures thereof.

2. (Previously Presented) The process for the separation of 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene according to Claim 1, wherein the starting mixture contains 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene in a concentration higher than its eutectic concentration with isomers thereof that are present in said starting mixture.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously Presented) The process for the separation of 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene according to Claim 1, wherein the same solvent is used for each of operations (A), (B) and (C).

5. (Previously Presented) The process for the separation of 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene according to Claim 4, wherein the solvent used is methanol.

6. (Previously Presented) The process for the separation of 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene according to Claim 2, wherein the same solvent is used for each of operations (A), (B) and (C).

7. (Previously Presented) The process for the separation of 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene according to Claim 6, wherein the solvent used is methanol.

8. (Previously Presented) The process for the separation of 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene according to Claim 1, wherein said isomers include 2,7-dimethylnaphthalene.

9. (Previously Presented) The process for the separation of 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene according to Claim 2, wherein said isomers include 2,7-dimethylnaphthalene.

10. (Previously Presented) The process for the separation of 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene according to Claim 4, wherein said isomers include 2,7-dimethylnaphthalene.

11. (Previously Presented) The process for the separation of 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene according to Claim 5, wherein said isomers include 2,7-dimethylnaphthalene.

12. (Previously Presented) The process for the separation of 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene according to Claim 6, wherein said isomers include 2,7-dimethylnaphthalene.

13. (Previously Presented) The process for the separation of 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene according to Claim 7, wherein said isomers include 2,7-dimethylnaphthalene.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been amended to require that the recited solvent be independently used in each of operations (A), (B), and (C). The --independently-- limitation is inferentially supported by original Claim 4, which requires that the solvent be the same for each operation, and broader claims, supporting description of an invention where the solvent is not necessarily the same for each operation.

No new matter has been added by the above amendment. With entry thereof, Claims 1, 2 and 4-13 will remain pending in the application.